

SPRING ISSUE 2015

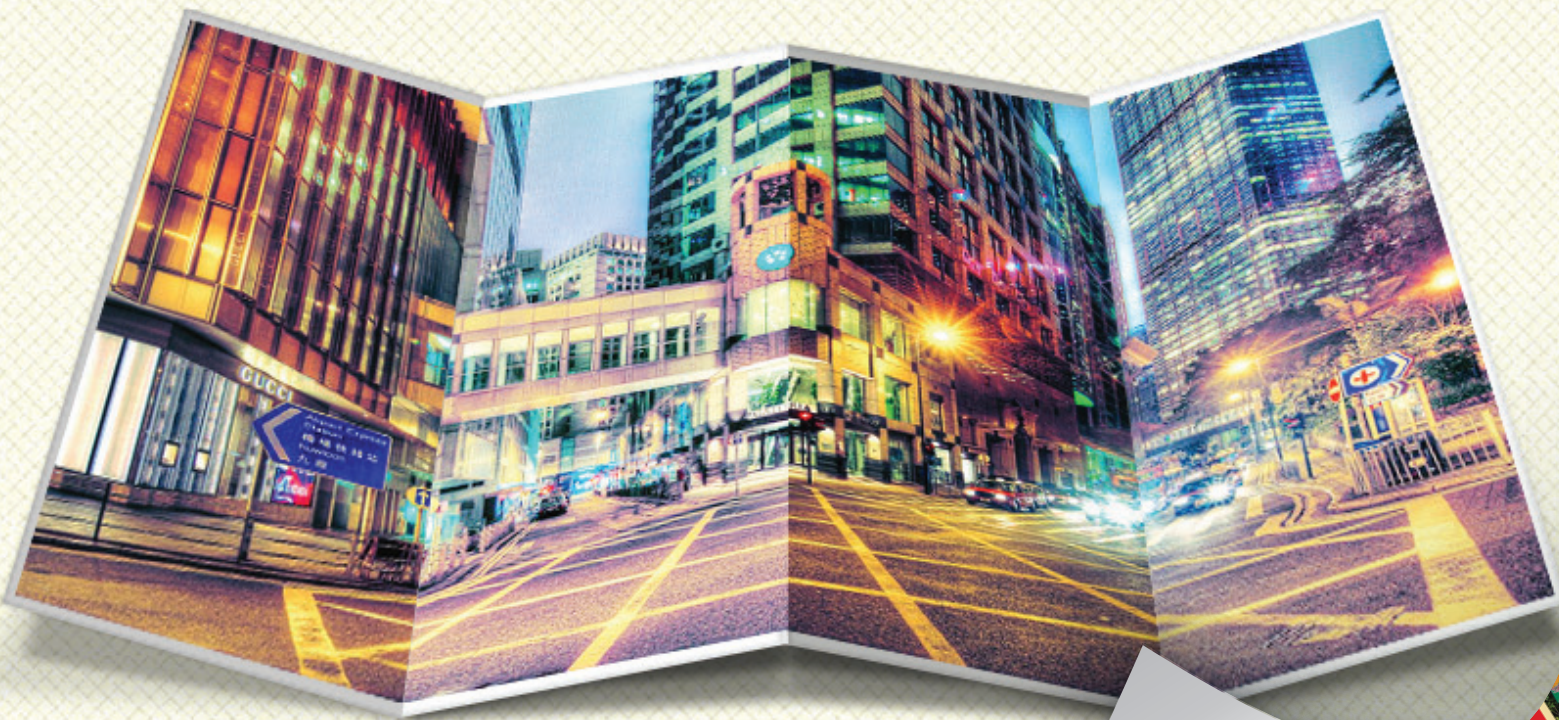


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Locating Hong Kong CITY ON THE EDGE



Community
Impact pp.7-10

MC³

A Creative Space
for Media, Culture
and Creative Cities



**Reducing Food Waste
Building a New Food Culture**

Locating Hong Kong

CITY ON THE EDGE



How can we identify Sociology and Anthropology within Hong Kong? Are we a Western transplant on Asian soil, doing the same work, within the same academic discourse as our colleagues in America, Canada, Britain and Australia? Are we “China watchers”, Hong Kong as a convenient observation post to look “into” the Peoples’ Republic? Are we the creators of a local intellectual identity, expressing local culture and society; detached from a regional or global context? At The University of Hong Kong, we enjoy the benefits of a first-rate academic system, research resources and opportunities for academic exchange coupled with, a close proximity to China and other Asian countries within a unique local cultural and social context. At the same time, we are marginal to all of these worlds – far from the intellectual centres of Western academia and social theory; ideologically and institutionally distant from mainland China; in our language of publication and teaching linguistically cut off from the Cantonese and Chinese society that surrounds us. Is there a possible “Hong Kong perspective” in Sociology and Anthropology? All intellectual and academic traditions are inseparable from their location within a specific nation-state with its culture and political system, or, by extension, within a specific colonial legacy. Hong Kong’s regional and global positioning is changing, as is the quality of its academic research and intellectual interventions. In time, this could give rise to a perspective that will, undoubtedly, reflect its unique location. But what is this location? We are on the edge of three regional spaces, at the centre of a metropolitan arc yet rooted in a strong heritage.

When I first came to Hong Kong, I immediately felt at home, despite having lived in many other countries. It seemed the city was a hypertrophied version of Chinatown in my native city of Toronto. I similarly felt comfortable in London. Toronto, London and Hong Kong is where I seemed to find my natural flow. What was the secret of these cities of the former British Empire? When I lived in the US, France and China, I felt the gravitational pull of a civilization, the powerful and self-conscious monuments of Washington, Paris or Beijing beckoning you to submit and assimilate -- or to remain an outsider, an “alien”, a “foreigner”. But in the cities of the former British Empire, the Centre was empty, around which swirled and circulated, with cool efficiency, myriads of communities, each alongside the other, each maintaining and guarding its own space and special rights – the English, the Scots and the Irish in Britain; the French, the English and the First Nations in Canada; the Chinese, the English and the Indians in Hong Kong. In all three regions, immigrant and migrant communities living in “multicultural harmony” with little pressure to assimilate.

But the cosmopolitan Empire has long past its twilight; its faded Crown is no longer the Centre; centrifugal forces have spun off its axis. This begging a need to re-situate and establish an identity in their own, regional context.

Where, then, can Hong Kong be located? The Umbrella movement of the past half year was a social movement and a political conflict, displaying emerging lines of fracture as Hong Kong is torn between disparate cultural and regional forces. Hong Kong is "on the edge" of socio-political frictions and tensions. "One Country, Two Systems" may be the description of Hong Kong's political status – but its identity is far more

complex. Hong Kong is a joint linking several networks and regional spaces – always "on the edge", it can perhaps never be fully absorbed into any of them.

Hong Kong is on the "southern edge" of China. Since 1843, Hong Kong has always been in an ambiguous position vis-à-vis the Middle Kingdom. Always of China, but never completely so; always politically distinct on the periphery. Alongside Taiwan and Macau, it is one of the three political anomalies on the Southern edge. The "One Country, Two Systems" formula does nothing to reduce Hong Kong's cultural marginality — and yet, it is increasingly connected and integrated to China.



Hong Kong is also on the "northern edge" of Southeast Asia. Historically, it has been a key intersection in the trade and migration networks of the South China Sea. This is not the Southeast Asia of the post-colonial nation-states, but an older and more enduring *Nanhai*; the network of cities, linking Hong Kong to Saigon, Bangkok, Penang, Malacca, Singapore and Jakarta. All cities built around a Chinatown, where trade and industry was and remains dominated by the Chinese diaspora, surrounded by indigenous and ethnic hinterlands. Today, the Southeast Asian connection goes both ways – besides remaining an important connection of the Chinese diaspora, Hong Kong is an

important centre of Indonesian and Philipino circuits of migrant labour.

Hong Kong is additionally on the "eastern edge" of the West. It is a fully Western metropolis, a global centre of finance and trade, with English as a second language. Of course, the relationship goes both ways, Hong Kong is a central hub in the "Chinese West", influencing culture from London to Toronto, Vancouver, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sydney. The Chinese presence is old and growing, and the Cantonese have been and continue to be deeply connected.



FEATURE STORY

Within and beyond the Sinosphere, Hong Kong is a central link in an Asian arc of cultural centres – including Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Bangkok and Singapore – where new patterns of cultural production and consumption are constantly being invented, disseminated and cross-fertilised.

Crossed and penetrated by so many networks and circulatory flows, linked it to all corners of the world, Hong Kong finds intimacy in its own, distinctive local culture. The only Non-Mandarin Chinese dialect of hegemony in the mass media, culture, education and government, Hong Kong has become the global centre of Cantonese culture, reaching from Guangdong province in the mainland to the Cantonese-speaking diaspora in Asia and the West.

But behind the seemingly uniform veneer of Cantonese popular culture, the “local” in Hong Kong society is as rugged and variegated as the mountains and inlets of

its landscape. A melting pot of multiple Chinese ethnicities and regional identities, including Cantonese, Hakka, Chiuchow, Hokkien, Tanka, Shanghainese, and mainlanders from all provinces; communities of Indians, Nepalis, Pakistanis, and Africans; growing numbers of Philipinos and Indonesians; and expats from Europe, the Americas and Australia with populations of Jews, Zoroastrians, Hindus and Muslims whose history is as old as the city itself. Between the jungles of the country parks, the fishing villages of the outlying islands, the indigenous clans of the New Territories, the housing estates and tenements of Kowloon and the towering urban jungle of the “Hong Kong side”, the spacial topography of Hong Kong reveals an astounding diversity of micro-ecologies of urban living. It is in these corners, sheltered from global winds, that the people of Hong Kong seek intimacy and authenticity, finding their heritage in a cup of milk tea, or their pride in the simple grub of a *cha chaan teng*.



How might this positioning inflect a sociological perspective? Hong Kong is at the edge of three worlds – China, Southeast Asia and the West; a connecting node of the Sinosphere; the centre of the Cantonese world; a key link in the metropolitan arc of Asian cultural creation; and sustained by local intimacy and diversity. Will Hong Kong remain on the cutting edge, or will it lose its edge?

Dr David Palmer (宗樹人博士)

Head

Department of Sociology



NEW LEADERS

It is my honour to be appointed as Associate Dean of Postgraduate Education. I will perform the duties of overseeing higher coursework and research degree programs in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Before assuming the associate deanship, I served as the Chair of the Departmental Research and Postgraduate Student Committee (DRPC). I have been a member of the Higher Social Sciences Degrees Committee since 2008.

During my term, I seek to work closely with various DRPC chairs and administrative staff from the Faculty Office in order to assure teaching and learning quality in our higher degree programs. A great deal of students, both current and prospective has expressed concern about securing a job in the highly competitive field of academia. Hence, I think it is important to organize timely, relevant seminars and workshops that will facilitate career placement and success for our postgraduate students.

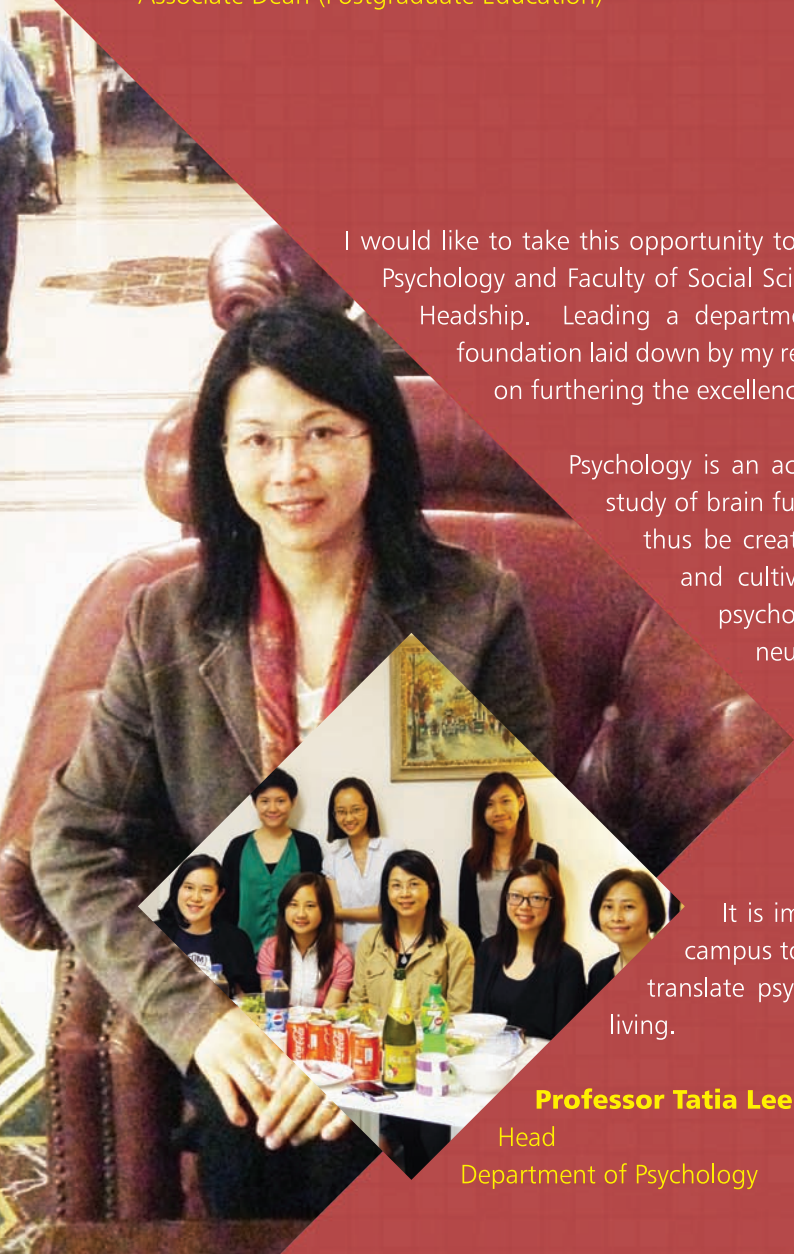
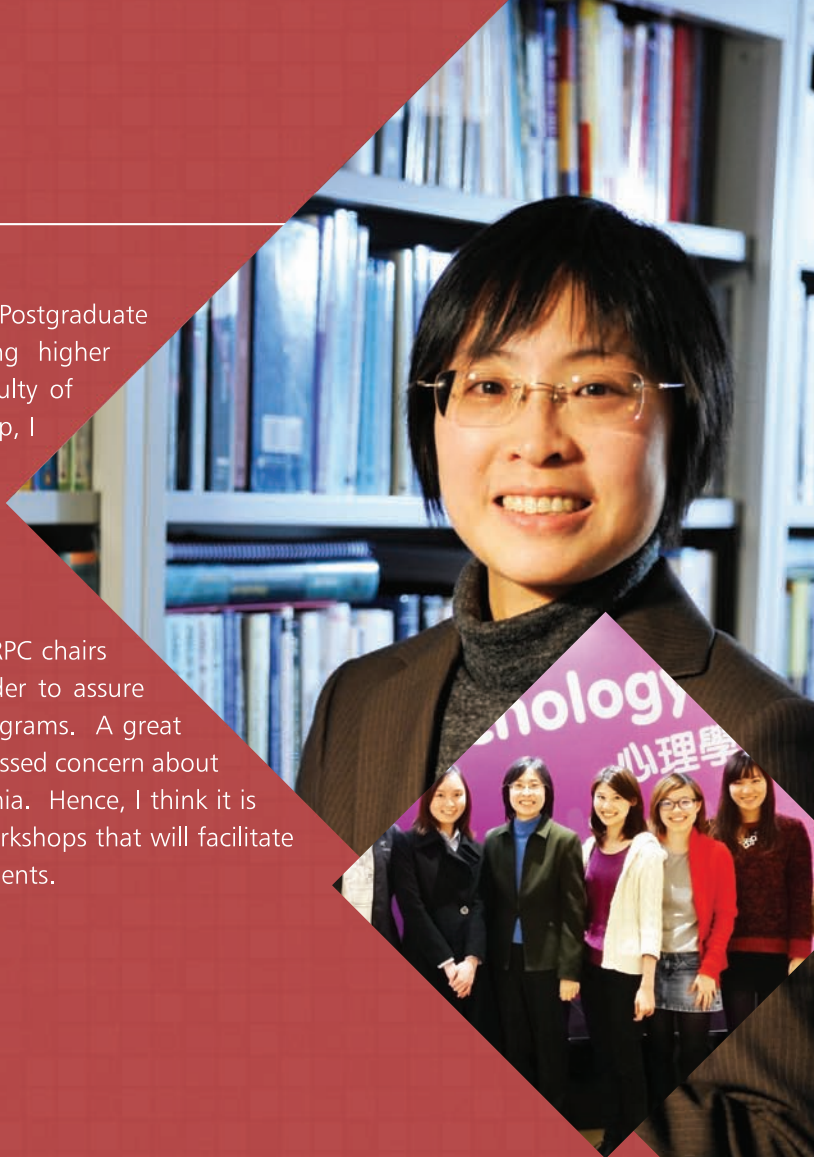
Professor Cecilia Cheng (鄭思雅教授)
Associate Dean (Postgraduate Education)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my students and colleagues of the Department of Psychology and Faculty of Social Sciences for their invaluable support, for entrusting me with Headship. Leading a department can be full of challenges. Fortunately, the robust foundation laid down by my respectable predecessors provides me a promising head start on furthering the excellence of my department.

Psychology is an academic and applied discipline that involves the scientific study of brain functions and behaviours, with the goal that the knowledge thus be created can contribute to nurturing well-balanced individuals and cultivating harmonious societies. My background in clinical psychology/neuropsychology enables me to engage in research in neuroscience on understanding normal and abnormal brain processes. The synergetic interaction with my students, research/clinical staff, and collaborators fuels my passion to unravel the mystery of the brain and develop evidence-based interventions for promoting brain health.

It is important that research findings can transcend beyond the campus to reach the community. I shall work with my colleagues to translate psychological knowledge into positive impacts on our daily living.

Professor Tatia Lee Mei-chun (李湄珍教授)
Head
Department of Psychology



FACULTY AWARDS



Social Sciences Outstanding Research Output Award – Applied Research

Impact of 2008 Global Economic Crisis on Suicide: Time Trend Study in 54 Countries

This work demonstrates that economic downturns can have important social and mental health costs. We, in collaboration with researchers based in Bristol and Oxford UK, investigated the extent to which the recession that began in 2008 ('the Great Recession') led to an increase in suicide rates across 54 countries affected by this downturn with various degrees. Our paper is the first systematic investigation into the issue based on international data. By contrast, others who had investigated this question mostly did so at the level of an individual country, and results were inconsistent. This study provided the definitive answer: the economic downturn in 2008 was followed by a rise in suicide in 2009 (around 5000 more suicides), and the level of increase in suicide was associated with rises in national unemployment rates. This research work challenges researchers and clinicians alike to address issues that they commonly have neglected. It is timely, and has far-reaching implications for economic, social, and public health policies for governments' response to offset the adverse effect of the economic downturn on population mental health.

Dr Chang Shusen (張書森博士)

Professor Paul Yip Siu-fai (葉兆輝教授)

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention

Social Sciences Outstanding Research Output Award – Basic Research

Associating Child Abuse with Child Victimization in China

Dr Edward Chan Ko-ling and his team undertook an incredibly ambitious project, yielding an enormous representative sample of 18,000 children in six regions of China. The research was published in the Journal of Paediatrics, one of the most impactful and prestigious journals in child research. Professor Jeffrey Edleson, Dean of the School of Social Welfare at University of California, Berkeley, described this study as, "path-breaking and impressive."

This study sets a new standard for research on child welfare, as it fills in the theoretical, empirical, and methodological gaps. As the first epidemiological study in China, it provides reliable estimates for the prevalence of child sexual abuse and multiple victimizations in China. It challenges the conventional thoughts that girls are mainly the targets of sexual abuse. The study's findings increase new knowledge on theorizing child polyvictimization. This body of work contributes to significant policy and practice implications on how to support adolescents who have experienced multiple victimizations.

The use of cutting-edge epidemiological methodology as well as synergies with sister projects in Switzerland, South Africa and other parts of the world will prove to have lasting impacts on child sexual abuse research around the world.

This paper is making an extraordinary contribution to the global research on child welfare, public health and social policy in China. As Professor Jeffrey Edleson acclaimed, The University of Hong Kong should be proud of this study and the research team behind it. It is an extremely important contribution of scholarship to the global community.



Dr Edward Chan Ko-Ling (陳高凌博士)

Department of Social Work and Social Administration



Teaching Excellence Award Falling In Love with Your Study

A teacher can leave an important developmental milestone in students' lives, in particular, for during the University years when students are becoming adults. I am honoured to be a facilitator of their intellectual and personal transformation. In my past eight years of teaching at the University, I found that some students are still more concerned about marks and GPA scores rather than the knowledge they gain from their studies. My goal is to help the students fall in love with their studies. As the first step of match-making, I facilitate the students to have a mutual understanding, on both themselves as well as the subject they are acquiring. Followed by linking their similarities, a more stable or even life long relationship can be established. In my teaching, I often guide my students to reflect why they take the course as well as link the theories into real life examples which are relevant to them. With this purpose-driven learning, students will have a zealous energy to find their own way to learn.

A strong catalyst for this process is role modelling. As a teacher, I demonstrate my purpose driven teaching to show my congruence in the messages I preach. I converted from a frontline social work clinician to a teacher because I hope I can inspire more social workers-to-be to serve the community. Predominantly, my goal is to **sensitize the empathetic hearts** of my students in responding to the suffering of disadvantaged groups, **ignite their passion to promote change and initiate their knowledge-based and purpose-driven careers**. I am really in love with my work, which energizes me to work through different challenges. Through lively teaching methods, clear delineation of concepts and relevance to life, I hope students can find their better self at HKU. As lifelong learners and leaders who fall in love with their study, I hope our graduates will connect the knowledge they gained and strive for the better quality of life for all individuals in the community.

Dr Amy Chow Yin-man (周燕雯博士)
Department of Social Work and Social Administration



MC³ – A Creative Space for Media, Culture and Creative Cities

MC³, located in Room 702 of the Jockey Club Tower, is a new creative space for teaching, learning, research and exhibition managed by the Department of Sociology at the University of Hong Kong.

MC³ (read as MC-cube) – a creative space for **Media**, **Culture** and **Creative Cities** – is an extension of our long standing and popular multi-disciplinary undergraduate major, Media and Cultural Studies (MCS), and our newly launched TPG programme in Media, Culture

and Creative Cities (MCCC). It offers a unique space for teachers, students, cultural workers and other concerned parties to experiment and

display their research and creative endeavours. Through a variety of thematic events including exhibitions, seminars, public talks and other forms of interactions with the community, MC³ provides an excellent platform to nurture students' learning, facilitate intellectual discussion, increase cultural interflows and enhance art appreciation.

Thank you, the Faculty of Social Sciences, for giving us such a wonderful space. Since the establishment of MC³ in May 2013, we have held a number of exhibitions and seminars. For example, **Changing Lens: An Invitation to Visual Sociology**, brought a group of 'photography minded' local sociologists/researchers together to capture the 'structure of feeling' of dense urban social life in Hong Kong. The exhibition, kicked off with a seminar discussion, exploring with the audience the complexity of meanings of the social world we are now living. Funded by Knowledge Exchange Funding for Impact Project, Travis Kong produced a Chinese book called **男男正傳：香港年長男同志口述史**

(Oral History of Older Gay Men in Hong Kong) documented twelve life stories of gay men aged 60 or above living in Hong Kong, capturing the complexity of their lives interwoven with Hong Kong history as well as the difficulties and hardships they have encountered, due to their sexual orientation, from colonial to contemporary times. Accompanying the book was an exhibition in which four local and international artists photographically portrayed the current lives of these men.



Community Impact



ID Exchange is a documentary/photographic initiative in which local artist Cheung Chi Wai invited his friends to swap clothes to explore the symbolic meanings of clothing, fashion and identity. The second phase of his project will invite participation from our MCS and MCCC students. The recent **Discovering Art:**

The World of Fapopo featured **Fa Po Po**, an 84-years old Chinese woman who made a living and raised four children by selling flowers. She picked up the paintbrush only recently to create her own unique kaleidoscopic flowering world on abandoned furniture, broken household objects (e.g., wardrobe, mirror, fans), and used card box papers. This exhibition was initiated, curated and operated by our MCCC students.



MC³ is thus a site dedicated to developing a new kind of Hong Kong study – one with a strong flavour of academic rigor, a sensitivity to local and global social concerns, an awareness of the value of knowledge exchange, and an emphasis on conducting a dialogue with students and the wider community. It goes beyond the conventional boundaries and frameworks of teaching and learning as well as research by underscoring interactions and exchanges among researchers, public intellectuals, cultural practitioners, students, and the general public. Our exhibitions usually attract a few hundred to attend, ranging from students, faculty staff members, NGOs, and the general public. Some exhibitions have received wide media exposure such as in the newspaper, radio, and television. Thus it has three major impacts: students' learning experiences, staff's teaching and research findings dissemination, and on knowledge exchange with the general public.



Hong Kong is emerging as a premiere hub for new media culture and creative industry in Asia and the world. Against this background, MC³ is a realization of the Department's initiatives in developing media and culture in facing the new challenges and opportunities of Hong Kong society in a globalized context.



We are planning for a series of exciting events for the coming two years. Please check out our website <http://www.sociodep.hku.hk/mccc.html> and ongoing publicity bulk emails. We welcome staff from other departments to use this space for teaching, learning, research, and knowledge exchange.

Dr Travis Kong Shiu-ki (江紹祺博士)

Programme Director

Master of Social Sciences in Media, Culture and Creative Cities



Registered as a charity organization in February 2013, Food for Good (FFG) is a small, young, yet distinctive non-governmental organization. It envisions the minimization of food waste in Hong Kong by redistributing surplus food to people in need; thus introducing green and sustainable living. The Executive Committee and its sub-committees, comprise specialists and representatives from different sectors who are committed to the vision of FFG. Funding support comes from private donations and sponsorships.

Admittedly in 2012, Hong Kong generated 3,337 tonnes of food waste, accounting for thirty-six percent of the city's solid waste disposed of at the already overloaded landfills. In recent years, increases of food waste generated from commercial and industrial sources has been substantial.

FFG aims to build up a new culture on food through changing our eating life style and habits, as well as our cooking practices. Reducing and recycling food waste is not only an economic concern, but a cherished social virtue. Food waste reduction projects in schools, private and public housing estates, and shopping malls have been organized in collaboration with our strategic partners which include: supermarkets, community organizations, restaurants, schools, food companies, and non-governmental organizations. Here are some of the examples:

Community Impact





• *Zero-food Waste School Project:* Currently, twenty-two primary and secondary schools (5,000 students) are involved in recycling their lunch leftovers into fertilizers to be used in school vegetable gardens. Educational resource kits, advising teachers and students on how to implement food recycling projects, have been distributed to all primary schools. Through workshops, seminars and talks given by professional organic farmers, students have increased their awareness and commitment to sustainable eating.

• *Community Kitchen:* The community kitchen in Tuen Mun, funded by a private donation, serves to provide over 1,200 meals each day free of charge to low-income families. About half of the food materials comes from donated surplus from supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, and food retailing companies. Another community kitchen, funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club, will be in operation this spring, eventually providing 3,200 meals a day.

• *Promotional Projects*

- *Caring Chefs:* Offers live cooking demonstrations by renowned chefs and legislative council members in shopping plazas, utilizing kitchen leftovers to create wonderful dishes. In the events organized at the Disneyland Hotel and the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute, surplus food has been used to provide meals to hundreds of student participants, introducing the message of cherishing food through a variety of entertaining performances.

- *Talks:* Presentations on managing food waste are made to various stakeholders, including the environmental organizations, community organizations, business and restaurant associations, schools, and catering services,

- *Other Promotional Activities:*

- ◆ Participation in environmental protection programmes, such as the annual 'Organic Day' exhibitions;
- ◆ Support of events promoting food waste reduction, such as the International Master Chefs Competition, 2014 and 2015;
- ◆ Collaboration with the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association to establish a badge award scheme on reducing food waste (Eat Wise Ambassadors)
- ◆ The 'Food-forgot' programme invited participants to use food leftovers to make creative dishes; the photos were then placed and voted upon in social media. Participants with popular dishes were invited to compete in a cooking demonstration at a hotel. Over 3,000 people participated in this event.
- ◆ Reducing food waste has also been promoted through road shows and a mobile exhibition truck.

• *Consultations:* consultations are provided to owners' incorporations in private and public housing estates and management companies of commercial malls to collect and recycle food waste, turning it into fertilizer to be used in gardens. Professional advice will be given on how to select and install food waste decomposers.

Reducing food waste is a profound challenge for Hong Kong. Notably, FFG has contributed to the increased awareness of the community and government on the urgent need to reduce food waste. The government implemented the public education programme, 'Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign' (2013) and announced 'A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022' (2014). The message of reducing food waste needs to be espoused fully by the citizens, government and private sector. We have made a small step in the beginning of a long journey. To learn more about our work, please visit our website: <http://www.foodforgood.org.hk>.



Professor Joe Leung Cho-bun (梁祖彬教授)

Department of Social Work and Social Administration
Chairman, Executive Committee, Food for Good

SOCIAL SCIENCES STRATEGIC RESEARCH AREAS

The Faculty of Social Sciences is eager to deepen and broaden its commitment to understanding contemporary society, economics, and politics of the Mainland through research, teaching, and service.

Contemporary China Studies Research and Knowledge Exchange

Currently the Dean of Social Sciences and the Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Development serve as convenor and co-convenor of the contemporary China strategic research theme, which numbers 35 members from across the University organized into 3 groups (urban development; social transformation, and globalizing China). (See the SRT website: <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/china/>) The theme supports workshops, book projects, and public lectures on contemporary China topics and seed funds researchers who apply for collaborative research grants. In this way we have supported a workshop on the relationship between Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Mainland (October 10, 2014), the new state security committee (January 19, 2015), re-discovering Chinese universities (September 2014), and future symposia focusing on the rule of law in China (with HKU Law) and social control in China and Russia (with Harvard). In 2013-14 we hosted 10 public lectures delivered by outstanding scholars of contemporary China including Professors Andrew Walder (Stanford), CK Lee (UCLA), Gary Hamilton (Washington), Tao Ran (Renmin), Liu Zhi (Peking U) and many others. Alumni and the public are welcome to attend and participate in these events.

HKU, through the Sin Kai-wan Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities, and the Faculty hosted Professor Roderick Macfarquhar (Harvard) to deliver a public lecture on January 21, 2015 that focused on China in transition and the Presidency of Xi Jinping (See <http://www.socsc.hku.hk/swk/rmac/video.html> for a webcast of this event). The Public Lecture was held in HKU's Rayson Huang Theatre and attracted considerable public interest. During Professor Macfarquhar's visit of 3 weeks he met staff and graduate students and gave talks in undergraduate classes.



Undergraduate Teaching

The Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences deliver a joint cross-Faculty China studies major and minor, ideally a second major or a minor for students who are interested to acquire a deeper understanding of the history, politics, society and economy of the Mainland. The major is led in Social Sciences by Dr. Zhu Jiangnan (PPA), a political scientist working on corruption on the Mainland, and Dr. Loretta Kim (Modern Languages and Cultures), an historian working on late imperial and modern China. While the numbers are small, we are eager to grow the programme. The China studies programme organizes an annual field trip to Shanghai for undergraduates to deepen their understanding of historical, political and social development on the Mainland. They attend talks delivered by local academics and make field visits to historical sites, museums, and various social organizations. Students also share ideas and discuss with local university students and local people on hot topics in China.



Postgraduate Programmes

In the past three years, we graduated 95 students working on social sciences topics related in China. Our postgraduates have been employed by Beijing University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Fudan University, Nanyang Technological University, Remin University, The University of Hong Kong, etc or, if Masters' degree holders, have gone on to further studies overseas.

The Faculty through the Department of Geography offers a taught postgraduate programme, Masters of China Development Studies that annually enrolls 25 students who go on to pursue research degree studies or develop their careers in both private and public sectors associated with broad areas of China development. (<http://geog.hku.hk/postgrad/machds/>)



Service

The Faculty has an active engagement programme to build capacity for NGOs operating in China and is actively recruiting NGO leaders and chief executives to join the Faculty's new Masters of Nonprofit Management (first intake in September 2015). Members of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration have not only led the development of the professionalization of social workers on the mainland, but carry out action research on the mainland to mitigate social problems associated with natural disasters, urbanization, social injustice, poverty, and migration. Other colleagues of the Faculty have also been actively involved in the research and planning of China's phenomenal urbanization, land use developments, ports transportation and high-speed rails, free-trade zones, and lately the One-Belt One-Road Initiative.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

In order to strengthen the partnerships and to set out the strategic directions of the 3-Campus Comparative East Asian Studies Programme, launched since 2008, Professor John Burns and Professor Samson Tse Shu-ki attended a meeting held at Jeju, South Korea in January 2015. On May 1 – 2, 2015, Professor Joseph Chan Cho-wai represented the Faculty to attend a Forum on Confucianism and East Asia held at Andong, a 600-year old South Korean village. This Forum is specifically organised to the 3-Campus students, with a student representative served as the moderator. Apart from Professor Chan, Professor Jongryn Mo, Vice President for International Affairs, Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, Yonsei University, and Professor Yoshihide Soeya, Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the Faculty of Law of Keio University, also joined the Forum. More details about this Programme can be found at www.socsc.hku.hk/3campus.



Case Bank

Through a partnership of the Hubert Project — an international open source case repository for public affairs education conceived and incubated in the Public & Nonprofit Leadership Center at the University of Minnesota, the ExCEL3 Project under the Faculty has established a Case Bank for professional training and teaching. The use of e-cases and written cases in classroom is a very effective pedagogical tool that allows students to be involved in the learning process through the illustration of complex problems based on practical, real world scenarios. The cases cover a wide range of topics including social entrepreneurship, strategic management, non-profit management, entrepreneurial philanthropy and strategic collaboration in the third sector. Please visit our Case Bank website at http://www.socsc.hku.hk/ExCEL3/case_bank/ for more details.





Greetings from the Executive Committee of Social Sciences Society, HKUSU! In the year of 2015, we aim to provide our members with welfare and services as well as updated information on social and political issues through different forms of functions and events.

Our first function, Seasonal Series, was successfully held during the second week of the second semester. Members were given heart-warming hot drinks and warm pads. As to continue its success, Seasonal Series – summer will be held during the week of September 14, 2015. Our Executive Committee has already started preparing the surprising welfares for the next season! On top of that, on February 11, 2015 we also held the Valentines' Special with a variety of cookies and chocolates sold at a bargained price for our members to enjoy the festive spirits. This year, we will be holding two separate exciting welfare weeks in both April and September. In order to motivate our members, the first welfare week will cross over with the Superpass Festival. Members are welcomed to come and take themed welfare packs for both welfare weeks! Last but not least, at the beginning of October, the high table dinner will be held for our members to experience this prestigious and unique HKU tradition.

It is foreseeable that the year of 2015 will be a critical year for Hong Kong's political and democratic developments. At the beginning of February, we held a forum for our members to understand more on the controversies of "HKUSU Independence". And for March, the Social Sciences Festival will be held, theming "The Conscious Voice". The Festival will last for three days with various activities, such as sharing sessions and exhibitions. Please feel free to come and visit us at the Suen Yat Sen place. Other than the above two activities, we will also be publishing the newsletter "NOISE" that discusses social and current affairs on the last Wednesdays of certain months. Both electronic and printed versions will be available for members.

In the year of 2015, our Executive Committee hopes to serve our members wholeheartedly. Please support us, the Executive Committee of Social Sciences Society, HKUSU, Session 2015.

Miss Kinnie Li King-yee (李敬儀小姐)

Chairman

Social Sciences Society, HKUSU

Session 2015





Bamboos Health Care Holdings Limited is listed on HKEx

Bamboos Health Care Holdings Limited (stock code: 8216), a leading provider of healthcare staffing solution services in Hong Kong, was listed in the HKEx on July 8, 2014.

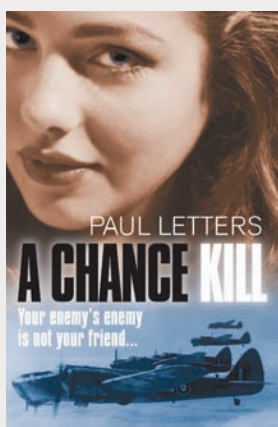
Established in 2009, co-founded by Mr. Jacky Kwan and Ms. Winsome Hai, Bamboos offers a wide range of healthcare staffing solutions and home care solutions. It endeavours to alleviate the healthcare manpower shortage by placing nurses and allied-health care professionals to meet the healthcare needs of individuals and the temporary staffing demands of healthcare institutions.

Bamboos is a multi-discipline healthcare group with a network of over 13,400 qualified health care personnel and professionals ready for immediate nursing and health care outreach services. The innovation expands to a one-stop business, which blends healthcare staffing solutions, health care magazine publications and public health education. With the Three Cs of core values - Care, Competence and Commitment, Bamboos is committed to providing clients with the best services.



Mr Jacky Kwan Chi-hong (關志康先生)
BEcon (1994), MEcon (2005)

Book Release – A Chance Kill



When disability hit in his mid-thirties, Paul Letters took a life changing sabbatical year off from full-time teaching via the Faculty of Social Science at HKU. After completing a Masters in International and Public Affairs, he stayed on as a Senior Researcher. He began writing op-ed articles for the SCMP on everything from George Orwell's predictions of a twentieth-century Cold War developing in East Asia to Hong Kong's umbrella power.

Various local magazines publish Paul's articles on travel, education and disability. He has recently released his first novel; with a Central launch at Bookazine, (Lyndhurst Terrace, March 4) and has had flash mob signings at Page One (Harbour City, March 3). *A Chance Kill* is a wartime thriller where an old-fashioned love story forges through a conspiracy of authentic, action-filled events: *Can individuals*

shape destiny? Or is it all by chance? An integral part of the story is how characters can and can not cope with war injuries and disabilities.

Paul is active in promoting disabled rights through writing opinion pieces for the SCMP and Baccarat. Local papers and RTHK radio have also interviewed him. . His campaigning through meetings at Legco with Emily Lau (as his New Territories East Legco constituent member) and government officials brought some success in the form of the legalisation of mobility scooters (2014).

Paul is currently working on the second novel in the Chances series, *The Slightest Chance*-based upon a (real) mass escape from Aberdeen to Mainland China after the surrender on Christmas Day, 1941.



Paul Letters
MPA (2011)



Class of 74 - 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner

The year 2014 was the 40th anniversary of the graduation of The University of Hong Kong Social Sciences Class of 74, a milestone most certainly worth celebrating.

The class prepared celebration months ahead with the undertaking of producing a commemorative class video for sharing among classmates, aiming towards the younger generation as a target audience. As a group we have been privileged to witness transformational events in history. By and large we have benefited from the opportunities that such transformation has offered. We believe that it is our collective mission to have this history and the wisdom gained from our unique experiences, recorded for posterity so that it can be an inspiration to the young, solace for the meek, encouragement for the weak and a salute to the respectable and the virtuous.

A total of thirty-nine classmates participated in this class project passionately hoping to inspire the younger generation on the road to diligence, patience, determination, friendship, sharing, religion and giving. We have a total of twenty-one video clips as of now, however, we are still waiting for more to come in the coming months before the class video goes public. A video trailer has been produced to show the class during our Anniversary Dinner, which was held on December 6.

It touched the heart of so many that classmates made immediate commitment to contribute to the class video.

One of the most elevating gifts is in the form of a song composed and written by our very own maestro Glen Yuen. His music and lyrics moved the first random pick of class choir members to tears; they were then determined they would do justice to his creation by taking time from their busy "retirement" schedule to attend the five required rehearsals stipulated by our purist composer. The professionally turned choir performed during the Anniversary Dinner, mesmerized an audience of sixty-five classmates. Enthusiastic encores prompted some singing along during the second "performance." The song, "Forty Years", which captures the very spirit of an enduring friendship that started forty-three years ago, is used as the background music of our class video entitled "Beyond the Lily Pond". We are proud of what we have achieved through diligence, entrepreneurship and perseverance in the past decades. We sincerely hope the new generation will learn their way as they move along in pursuit of their various goals and that they will similarly find their life journey challenging and rewarding.



Ms Julia Fung Yuet-shan (馮月珊女士)
BSocSc (1974)

The 6th Outstanding Second Career Award

I am pleased to share that I have just obtained the captioned award presented by Junior Chamber International (Lion Rock) and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.

Volunteering is a way to serve an interest outside, to serve as a bridge to the community with love and care and to serve as a way to embrace the meaning of life instead of just earning a living.

With better time management and use of professional knowledge and skills, volunteering should be a part of our life. Let's enjoy the benefits brought by volunteering!



Mr Henry Ling Wai-hang (凌煒鏗先生)
BSW (2007), MPhil Candidate (Social Work and Social Administration)

EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

The 21st Hong Kong International Cancer Congress Hospice & Palliative Social Work Satellite Symposium – “The Art of Palliative Social Work – Research, Practice and Beyond”

November 20, 2014



BigLove Alliance: second seminar in HKU

December 12, 2014

Symposium on Using Gestalt Approach to Promote Student Emotional Well-being

December 13, 2014



Symposium on Social Innovation in Creative Intergenerational Solidarity

December 12, 2014

Symposium on Empowering Hong Kong NGO Leaders

January 10, 2015



International Workshop: Myth and Prospect of the "China Dream": The People's Republic of China at a Crossroads

January 15, 2015



Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities Lecture China in Transition - The Impact of Xi Jinping

January 21, 2015

Speaker: Professor Roderick MacFarquhar
Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities, HKU
Leroy B Williams Research Professor of History and Political Science
Department of Government, Harvard University



Public Lecture on "British Policy Leading to the Transfer of Sovereignty over Hong Kong"

January 26, 2015

Speaker: Dr Dalena Wright
Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University



Exhibition: Discovering Art – Fa Po Po's World

發現藝術：花婆婆的藝術世界

January 19 - February 14, 2015

Co-organisers: MC³@702 Creative Space,
Fa Po Po 花婆婆

EVENTS SPOTLIGHT



2-day Introductory Workshop on The Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and Music

January 19 – 20, 2015

Premiere and Dialogue with Producers of How can I tell her?

《死神九問》- 教我如何告訴她?
劇集試映會暨對談

March 13, 2015



Roundtable on The Interface of Medical and Social Care Systems in Dementia and End-of-life Care Insights from UK and Singapore

April 1, 2015

Contemporary China Studies Public Lecture

Contemporary China Studies Workshop Is the Concept of Secularism Relevant to China?

November 7, 2014

Speaker: Professor Prasenjit Duara

Raffles Professor of Humanities

Director, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Borders and Critical Scholarship: A Case Study from the Sino-Tibetan Border

December 11, 2014

Speaker: Dr Tenzin Jinba

Professor of Anthropology and Sociology

Lanzhou University





Public Policy Forum / Public Lecture

Retirement Protection in Hong Kong: Rethinking an Age Old Controversy

November 10, 2014



Should Hong Kong Public Services Change? Can They?

December 3, 2014

Speaker: Kim Salkeld

Head, Efficiency Unit, HKSAR Government



Public Policy Mental Health Forum

February 6, 2015

Speaker: Mary O'Hagan

International Consultant and Social Enterprise Developer



Public Policy Mental Health Workshop – The Inaugural Mental Health Peer Support Workers

February 6, 2015

Speaker: Mary O'Hagan

International Consultant and Social Enterprise Developer

Public Policy – Water Governance Research Programme

Public Lecture on Managing China's Water Resources: Problems and Policies

中國水資源問題及科學應對講座

講者：王浩教授

中國工程院院士 中國水利水電科學研究院 水資源研究所

December 1, 2014



Seminar on Planning for Urban Water Security in the Greater Pearl River Delta Region

大珠江三角洲地區城市水安全規劃研討會

December 2, 2014



Forum on Attaining Long-term Water Security for Hong Kong: Policy Challenges and Opportunities

March 12, 2015

Speaker: Professor Asit Biswas

Distinguished Visiting Professor

Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Founder, Third World Centre for Water Management



SELECTION OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS (From August to December 2014)

Affect Regulation and Treatment for Depression and Anxiety through Art: Theoretical Ground and Clinical Issues

Author: Nan, J K M & Ho, R T H

Journal: Annals of Depression and Anxiety

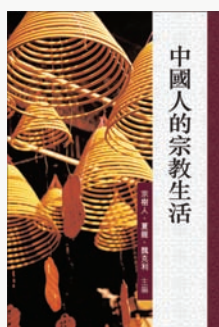
Advances in neuroscience research have shown that depression and anxiety are closely related to affect regulation, the emotional processes that work within the brain system. This paper reviews two major areas of affect regulation. The first area accounts for the relationships between affect regulation and the functions of the left/right hemispheric brain, as well as the effect of these emotional processes on the autonomic nervous system. The interpersonal neurobiological basis of affect regulation is also elaborated. On the theoretical basis of affect regulation, the second area of discussion focuses on how the assessment and healing functions of various art media adopted in art therapy treatment correlate with left/right hemispheric brain processes.

Dr Rainbow Ho Tin-hung (何天虹博士)

Department of Social Work and Social Administration

ANNALS OF

DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY



Chinese Religious Life

Author: HKU Press

Publisher: Palmer, D A, Shive, G, Wickeri, P, L

Chinese Religious Life 《中國人的宗教生活》introduces Chinese religious life and practice for the general reader, written by an international team of scholars from several disciplines including anthropology, sociology, religious studies, history and political science. Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Popular Religion, Christianity, and Islam are treated not as isolated systems, but as cultural and religious expressions interwoven in the Chinese society. The emphasis is on religious practice, not doctrines or beliefs. Each chapter treats a different aspect of religion in Chinese public life. Religion provides a lens through which to observe a range of complex social issues, related to the economy, gender and sexuality, health and the environment, ethnicity, and globalization. There is no single "model" of religion and public life in China, and a wide range of imaginable possibilities are found in this volume. This book encourages readers to relate chapter themes to universally relevant areas of religious interest, all the time showing the distinctive features particular to the Chinese context.

Dr David Palmer (宗樹人博士)

Department of Sociology



Coping Flexibility and Psychological Adjustment to Stressful Life Changes: A Meta-analytic Review

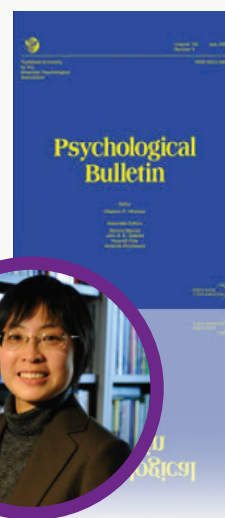
Author: Cheng, C, Lau, B H P, & Chan, S M P

Publisher: Psychological Bulletin / American Psychological Association

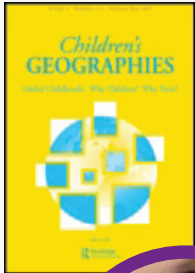
The present meta-analysis covers all available studies conducted between 1978 and 2013 that empirically tested the relationship between coping flexibility and psychological adjustment. This study is the first to provide a summary estimate of the overall effect size and investigates cross-study sources of variation in the beneficial role of coping flexibility.

Professor Cecilia Cheng (鄭思雅教授)

Department of Psychology



SELECTION OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Does Neighbourhood Count in Affecting Children's Journeys to Schools?

Author: Loo, B P Y, Lam W W Y
Journal: Children's Geographies

This study examines two factors affecting children's school journeys – independent mobility and accessible school opportunities. The results show that 30.4% of the children's school journeys were made without adult companions. Half of the children walked to schools. The multi-level analysis suggests that nearly 90% of the variance in both indicators was found at the individual level. Neighbourhood, though not a decisive factor, does have impacts on the number of accessible school choices.

Professor Becky Loo Pui-ying (盧佩瑩教授)
Department of Geography

Extra-Legal Protection in China How Guanxi Distorts China's Legal System and Facilitates the Rise of Unlawful Protectors

Author: Wang, P
Journal: British Journal of Criminology

This paper incorporates the concept of guanxi—a Chinese version of personal connections, networks or social capital—into the discussion of police corruption and the rise of extra-legal protectors. Using published materials and fieldwork data collected from two Chinese cities (Chongqing and Qufu), it demonstrates how guanxi distorts China's legal system by facilitating the buying and selling of public offices and promoting the formation of corrupt networks between locally based criminals and government officials. China's weak legal framework encourages individuals and entrepreneurs to employ guanxi networks to obtain private protection from alternative suppliers (e.g. corrupt government officials and street gangsters) in order to protect property rights, facilitate transactions and fend off government extortion.

Dr Wang Peng (王鵬博士)
Department of Geography



Passive Warming of Indoor Space Induced by Tropical Green Roof in Winter

Author: Jim, C Y
Journal: Energy

*Thermal-energy performance of green roofs in winter is seldom investigated. With poor building thermal insulation and lacking artificial heating, indoor space in winter in subtropics can become uncomfortably cold with health implications for elderly and weak people. This experimental study established two extensive green roofs on a residential building in humid-subtropical Hong Kong. Broadleaved Perennial Peanut (*Arachis pintoii*) and succulent Mexican Sedum (*Sedum mexicanum*) plots were compared with bare concrete-tile Control Plot. Temperature sensors were installed along a holistic vertical temperature profile. Three apartments below the plots were left vacant to permit undisturbed monitoring. At Control Plot, notable heat loss especially in nighttime induces upward heat flux to cool indoor air. Vegetated roofs provide receptor and repository of solar energy as sensible heat to generate green-roof heat-sink effect (GHE). The porous substrate stores interstitial water to augment thermal capacity, conductivity and GHE. Warmer green-roof vis-à-vis cooler ceiling generates a thermal gradient to induce downward heatflux to warm indoor space. Peanut Plot with thicker substrate creates a stronger GHE than Sedum. Extensive green roofs in subtropical areas offer passive warming to indoor space in winter, with implications on indoor-heating energy consumption for a progressively aging population and climate-change adaptation.*

Professor Jim Chi Yung (詹志勇教授)
Department of Geography





Perceptual Expertise: Can Sensorimotor Experience Change Holistic Processing and Left Side Bias?

Author: Tso, R V Y, Au, T K F & Hsiao, J H
Journal: SAGE / Psychological Science

We examined the influence of sensorimotor experience on level of holistic processing (i.e., the tendency to process separate features of an object as a single unit) and left-side bias (i.e., the tendency to perceive an object composed of two left halves as being more similar to the original than an object composed of two right halves). Novice Chinese readers and expert Chinese readers with limited or expert writing experience completed assessments of holistic processing and left-side bias. Holistic processing was found to be influenced by writing experience, whereas left-side bias was not, indicating that holistic processing — but not left-side bias — is influenced by sensorimotor experiences such as writing.

Dr Janet Hsiao Hui-wen (蕭惠文博士)
Department of Psychology

Special Issue on Elder Abuse in Chinese Populations

Author: Yan, E C W
Journal: Emerald / Journal of Adult Protection

Chinese populations, whether in People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, the USA, Canada, or as other immigrants, represents one of the fastest aging populations in the world. Research has increasingly confirmed that older Chinese are equally, if not more, likely to fall victims of elder abuse than their non-Chinese counterparts across the world. Papers included in this special issue provide an outline for researchers, policy makers, frontline professionals and stakeholders concerned about elder abuse in Chinese populations and further facilitates research and discussion on this important topic.

Dr Elsie Yan Chau-wai (甄秋慧博士)
Department of Social Work and Social Administration

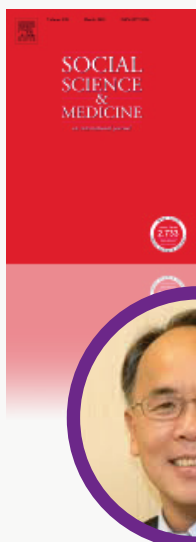


The Roles of Culture and Gender in the Relationship between Divorce and Suicide Risk: a Meta-Analysis

Author: Yip, P S, Yousuf S, Chan C H, Yung T & Wu K C
Journal: Social Science & Medicine

With some exceptions, literature has consistently shown that divorced populations are at higher risk for suicide than married ones. Here we make use of coefficients of aggravation (COAs), suicide rate ratios of the divorcees over the married, to study patterns of COAs and test the contribution of international sociocultural factors and gender to the relationship between divorce and suicide. We conducted a systematic search of electronic databases to identify ecological studies reporting suicide rates and ratios of those rates within different marital statuses between Jan 1, 2000 and Dec 31, 2013. In total, ten studies consisting in suicide statistics of eleven countries/areas were selected. Using random-effect modeling, we noted that the pooled COA for men and women were 3.49 (95% CI 2.43–4.56) and 3.15 (95% CI 1.74–4.56), suggesting both divorced men and women exhibited a greater risk of suicide than their married counterparts. Subgroup analyses revealed that COAs in Asian countries are significantly higher than those in non-Asian ones. Among the sociocultural measures retrieved from the HOFSTEDE index and the World Values Surveys, we noted significant associations between COA and four measures, including the individualism–collectivism score, the long-term orientation scores, the survival/self-expression score, and the gender inequality indices. The magnitudes and the directions of the associations however differ by sex. The results confirm that overall divorced people have an aggregate higher suicide risk than married ones. The method used in our research could reveal what cultural indicators are exerting effect on the relationship between divorce and suicide risk, which might change with sociocultural transition. More investigation into the relationships and then the construction of culturally appropriate suicide prevention policy is recommended.

Professor Paul Yip Siu-fai (葉兆輝教授)
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention



CONGRATULATIONS

Students

Awards



Fulbright-RGC Hong Kong Research Scholar Award Program

I spent six-months in the U.S.A - five months at University of Miami and one month in Iowa State University. This experience was so awe-inspiring that I do not have the words to express the astounding experience that I had! During the five months under the Miami palms, I worked on an evolutionary psychology project examining the adaptive value of gratitude using economic games. In Iowa, I started off several cross-cultural studies on centenarians' well-being, and witnessed the colourful autumn of the Mid-West. Having lived in these two very distinct places, I had an eye-opening exposure to the diversity of American cultures. I am extremely grateful of the Fulbright program, and my supervisors for this fruitful experience.

Miss Bobo Lau Hi-po (劉喜寶小姐)
PhD Candidate (Psychology)

Harvard College in Asia Program 2015

The Harvard College in Asia Program (HCAP) aims at fostering academic, social and cultural interaction between Harvard and Asian Universities. I took part in the January 2015 conference, which was themed "Technology and Our Generation." Delegates from diverse backgrounds engaged in active academic discussion and gained insight from speakers on the role played by technology in various industries. Through small-group case studies, we presented creative and feasible technological solutions to social problems in Asia. Moreover, HCAP strengthened our understanding of American and Asian cultures through events like the Talent Show and Iron Chef. We also learned about the history of Boston and America by visiting important sites such as the Freedom Trail. HCAP has been a truly memorable experience, from which I have gained intellectual stimulation, cultural understanding and lifelong friendships. It has encouraged me to grow more aware of the world and reconsider my role as a global citizen.

Miss Karen Ho Ka-hei (何嘉晞小姐)
BSocSc (GL) & LLB II



Academic Staff

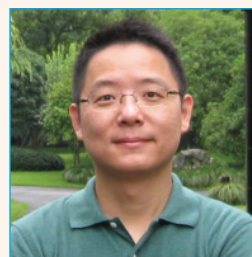
Promotions



Dr Janet Hsiao Hui-wen
(蕭惠文博士)
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology



Dr Vivian Lou Weiqun
(樓瑋群博士)
Associate Professor
Department of Social Work and
Social Administration



Dr Yan Xiaojun
(閻小駿博士)
Associate Professor
Department of Politics and
Public Administration

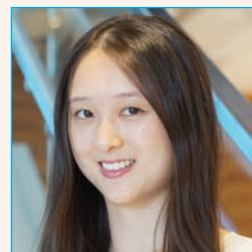
New Appointments



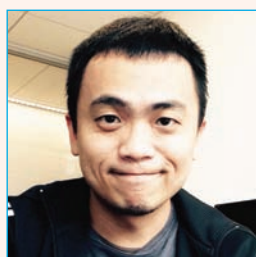
Dr Chan Wai Lan
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Department of Psychology



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Department of Psychology



Dr Jasmine Zhu Shimin
(朱詩敏博士)
Post-doctoral Fellow
Department of Social Work and
Social Administration

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June



15th Annual Research Postgraduate Conference

Date: June 6, 2015

Venue: 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Miss Sandy Chuang

(Tel: 3917 1219; Email: rpgc@hku.hk;

Website: www.socsc.hku.hk/rpc/2015)

Forum on Transformational Leadership: Driving and Measuring Sustained Performance in Non-profit Organisations

Date: June 9, 2015

Venue: 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Mr Alan Tang

(Tel: 3917 1260; Email: alantstl@hku.hk;

Website: www.socsc.hku.hk/ExCEL3)

Philanthropy Lab: Forum on Rediscovering Individual Giving and Volunteerism

Date: June 16, 2015

Venue: 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Mr Alan Tang

(Tel: 3917 1260; Email: alantstl@hku.hk;

Website: www.socsc.hku.hk/ExCEL3)

WAPOR 68th Annual Conference

Date: June 16-19, 2015

Venue: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Contact: Ms Winnie Lee

(Tel: 3917 7721; Email: winnie.lee@hku.hk)

The International Symposium on Applied Neuropsychology

Date: June 23-24, 2015

Venue: 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Dr Helena Tam

(Tel: 2831 5296; Email: helena_tam@hku.hkbsite)



Summer Institute: Asia as the Global Future

Date: June 22-July 17, 2015

Venue: Hong Kong, Beijing and Seoul

Contact: Miss Mary Tsang

(Tel: 3917 1226; Email: sumins@hku.hk;

Website: www.socsc.hku.hk/si/2015/)

July

Certified Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) Practitioner

Date: July-August, 2015

Venue: Centre on Behavioral Health, HKU

Contact: Ms Amy Choi

(Tel: 2831 5158; Email: amychoi@hku.hk;

Website: www.cbh.hku.hk)

Philanthropy Lab: Forum on Measuring Impact – Accounting for Value in Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility

Date: July 8, 2015

Venue: 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Mr Alan Tang

(Tel: 3917 1260; Email: alantstl@hku.hk;

Website: www.socsc.hku.hk/ExCEL3)



HKU Social Sciences Summer Programme 2015

Date: July 13-17, 2015

Venue: Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Miss Mary Tsang

(Tel: 3917 1226; Email: sssp@hku.hk;

Website: www.socsc.hku.hk/sssp/2015)

Social Science Research Methods

HKU Postgraduate Summer School

Date: July 20 - August 7, 2015

Venue: 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Contact: Miss Sandy Chuang

(Tel: 3917 1220; Email: ssrm@hku.hk;

Website: www.socsc.hku.hk/ssrm/2015)

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The Faculty welcomes any form of contribution to *Sociologist*.

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(卜約翰教授)

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Miss Mary Tsang (曾詠釗小姐)

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Mr Harold Tsang (曾可文先生)

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